

PSYCHOPATHY—A Comparative Analysis of Clinical Pictures—Carl Frankenstein, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Special Education, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, New York, 1959. 198 pages, \$6.75.

This book deals with a complex and controversial category of human behavioral disturbance which the author designates "psychopathy" but which has been called by other names also. Dr. Frankenstein defines psychopathy as "constitutional inability to establish objective (positive as well as negative) relationships and effective human ties or as a constitutional deficiency in volition and emotion (in contradistinction to intellectual deficiencies)." He further describes it as demonstrating "lack of identification; a poorly defined ego concept; a tendency to mirror others in behavior; absence of superego awareness, of anxiety, of guilt feelings and of neurotic reactions to conflict or frustration; shallowness of fantasy material; lack of concern for objective facts; weakness of the time concept; . . . moral indolence, often leading to brutal crime; lack of control over sexual and/or material desires; hysterical fanaticism, seemingly for the sake of a truth, a principle, an idea, but actually reflecting an insatiable need to be the center of attention, admiration or fear; the same need producing the well known swindler and imposter type . . . ; narcissistic excitability; or almost unlimited seducibility."

The book treats this area of disturbance primarily from a descriptive and phenomenological basis, but with some discussion of dynamics of the personalities involved; the only reference to treatment is the opinion that treatment is impossible because of the constitutional quality of the disturbance. Psychopathy is described and discussed more from the frame of reference of Jungian psychological theory than from that of any other particular school. After the preliminary discussion and classification of types of psychopathy, the great bulk of the book is taken up with a comparison of the author's concept of psychopathic disturbance with other kinds of psychological disturbance of a similar kind, as well as with disturbances of a grossly dissimilar nature.

The first line in the preface to the book is, "This book is a study in clinical semantics." The balance of the book bears out this warning. Physicians, and most psychiatrists, will probably find this book difficult and slow reading, because of relatively unfamiliar terminology, apparent coinage of new words and phrases and an abstruseness of language which often obscures more than it clarifies. Although it is the opinion of this reviewer that the language usage of the book is a disservice to its content, this statement is made with the recognition that a new frame of reference often requires new terms and language structure. It is speculative, rather than a logically based judgment, that the material could have been presented more clearly.

The author approaches a difficult and involved task in his attempt to integrate the phenomenology of psychopathic disorders, and the book represents a courageous attempt to perform this task. Whether the theoretical formulations are correct or, indeed, whether they can be easily validated, does not seem to be the crucial issue. The book presents psychopathy in a somewhat integrated frame of reference which is at least somewhat susceptible to attempts at clinical proof or disproof and is of value for this reason. The author stresses the "time concept," in discussing dynamics and this emphasis seems a welcome addition to dynamic concepts. He makes the point more emphatically than it is usually made that particular kinds of interpersonal relationships and interaction are not necessarily identical unless one can demonstrate that they occur at identical periods in the development of the individual. In other words, a problem of maternal rejection is not the same to a child

of one month as to a child of one year or a child of ten or a child of fifteen. Though this seems truistic, it is too often ignored in psychodynamic literature.

All in all, the book appears a valuable addition to the literature on psychopathy despite its semantic acrobatics and it is to be recommended for the interest of its point of view to all those interested in this type of disturbed behavior.

D. A. SCHWARTZ, M.D.

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THE CARE OF MINOR HAND INJURIES—Adrian E. Flatt, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S., Assistant Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, State University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa. With foreword by Carroll B. Larson, M.D. The C. V. Mosby Company, 3207 Washington Boulevard, St. Louis 3, Mo., 1959. 266 pages, illustrated, \$9.50.

This book is a guide for those practitioners who have had limited experience in treating hand injuries. Furthermore, the text is meant to cover those injuries which Dr. Flatt feels are amenable to out-patient care.

The first of two sections includes four chapters on general principles of minor hand surgery. Topics which are briefly but lucidly discussed are functional anatomy, surgical techniques peculiar to this field, preoperative and post-operative suggestions, as well as methods of examination and classification of injuries.

Specific injuries are dealt with in the following eleven chapters. The methods of treatment are those which the author has personally found to be safe and practical. The text, selection of photographs and drawings are generally excellent.

However, several illustrated plastic maneuvers are beyond the scope of minor surgery. These include dorsal rotational flaps and volar transpositional flaps which will be regarded by some as unacceptable as here described and illustrated.

Fortunately, in the chapter on pulp loss, the pitfalls of thenar flaps are well depicted. The uninitiated will thus leave them for the expert to utilize in exceptional circumstances. A formal discussion on handling of the volar digital nerves would be helpful since many stumps are crippling because the average surgeon is frequently not cognizant of these two troublesome structures.

It is felt that the practitioner may be frustrated if he attempts to treat the common mallet finger by the conservative method, using a plaster cast as illustrated. An alternate means of splinting is not shown. Though the text on fractures is good, here again more illustrations in the actual use of splints is desirable.

In this rather limited and specialized field a book of this type is a definite asset. The industrial surgeon, generalist, and orthopedic surgeon will find it useful. It is readable, well organized, and recommended to those interested in hand surgery.

ROBERT L. BROWN, M.D.

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DOCTOR'S LIFE OF JOHN KEATS, A—Walter A. Wells, M.D. Vantage Press, Inc., 120 W. 31st Street, New York 1, New York, 1959. 247 pages, \$3.95.

Under this title as justification Dr. Wells has done a rather poor biography of the great poet. The style is jerky, the material not well organized, the digressions numerous and often tedious, and through this Keats wanders like a shadow which never becomes very real. Even the account of Keats' illness is packed with extraneous matter and the philosophical reflections on the mystery of genius which follow are at times far-fetched. One doubts whether this book adds much to the literature on Keats.

ARTHUR L. BLOOMFIELD, M.D.